

Nordics in the north, the Mediterraneans in the south and the Alpines in the middle area, stretching from Russia and the Near East to the Atlantic in Western France and Northern Spain. This simplification of the data is favourable to the treatment of the main thesis, though it has to be borne in mind that the validity of conclusions is conditional on the general accuracy of the facts. Thus the statement that pre-Saxon Britain was "inhabited almost entirely by the slender, dark-complexioned race called Mediterranean" and that the people of this race were gradually driven by "the pursuing Nordics" into the rugged lands forming the Western fringe of the island, will probably be contested by many anthropologists, and with it some of the inferences as to the origin of the special characteristics of the modern English people. In general, however, as has been said, the broad treatment is helpful to the reader in enabling him to perceive the main truth which the author seeks to convey: that "the racial factor lies behind most of the world's problems." The conditions of life of any people are created by the people themselves. Their excellence, or the reverse, expresses the degree of inherent capability of the people. But the different races present great differences in the capacity of their members to create favourable conditions of life. Whence the racial constitution of any nation or population is the dominant factor in determining its welfare.

In the last chapter the author has a few useful words to say with regard to the question of the varying quality of individuals within a single race and the importance of the inborn characters in comparison with those produced by environment. "We now know that the basic factor in human affairs is not men's surroundings but the qualities of men themselves and that these qualities are inborn, not grafted on by outward circumstances." He further notes that "each human stock produces individuals ranging in hereditary endowment all the way from the idiot to the genius." It is also pointed out—especially in connection with the Alpine race—that conditions acting for long periods of time on any given race in such a way as to favour the survival of the less gifted part of that race, tend to produce a universal lowering of the general racial quality.

We have made no reference to the chapters in the body of the book. To a great extent they are occupied by historical and political analyses in which the operation of the racial factor is traced, often in a good deal of detail. They will be read with great profit by the general reader to whom the idea of a biological causation of political phenomena may come as an instructive novelty. The style is interesting, clear and vivacious and the addition of three coloured maps further assists the reader in getting a distinct and vivid idea of the matter treated in the text.

R. AUSTIN FREEMAN.

Strangeways, J. S. P. *Technique of Tissue Culture in Vitro*. Pp. 80. Illust. Cambridge. Heffer and Sons, 1924. Price 7s. 6d.

THE treatment of this little book "Tissue Culture in Vitro" may not, at the first glance, appear to have much to do with Eugenics. Treated, however, as Dr. Strangeways treats it, it is clear that he is dealing with

the subject from the theoretical point of view, and all Geneticists and members who wish to keep abreast of current Genetic theory will do well to borrow and read this. Dr. Strangeways' writing is a model of clearness and not a word is wasted.

POINTS TO BE NOTED.

1. Changes occur in cells when grown in culture apart from the normal medium with the possibility of an enormous number of fresh cultures succeeding each other as generations. This Dr. Strangeways calls dedifferentiation.
2. The fact that cultures implanted once more in the appropriate living tissues re-assume their normal characters.
3. A series of phenomena accompanied by permanent disturbance of cell life. Various rays as well as other abnormal stimuli appear so to disorganise the cell life that even in those cases where multiplication continues a return or re-implantation to the normal environment does not restore the normal type.

This last series is in a more complicated stage of experimental treatment and Dr. Strangeways avoids any broad conclusions at this point, but it is obvious that possibilities of observing both normal and abnormal forms of multiplication must throw much light on such exceedingly perplexing experiments as those of, for example:—Pearl and Stockhard (*Racial Poisons*.)

C.B.S.H.